



The British-German Conference



The British-German Conference 2011

*"The UK and Germany in a Changing World Order:
New Challenges, New Strategies"*

(Berlin, 27th - 30th April 2011)





The UK and Germany in a Changing World Order: New Challenges, New Strategies

The British-German Conference 2011 is a four-day program of keynote speeches, panel discussions, and debates that will address the international roles and responsibilities of the UK and Germany in a changing world order, and the importance of the bi-lateral relationship. Speakers at the conference will be high-profile figures from the UK, Germany, and the wider international community, in the fields of international politics, diplomacy, academia, the private sector and civil society. Attendance at the conference is open to scholars and students, diplomatic and political representatives, journalist, civil society practitioners, and other stakeholders with an interest in the UK, Germany, and the field of international relations.

Introduction

Germany and the UK are both experiencing crucial periods of self-analysis. With public debt at worryingly high levels and economic recovery taking longer than expected, the financial security of Europe and the Eurozone is coming under increasing focus amongst political commentators across the continent. Economic instability in the Eurozone has, in turn, only heightened divisions that exist amongst national politicians in their positions towards the EU.

The structures of international organisations have also been brought under scrutiny by the global economic crisis, and face additional pressure on account of the ongoing instability in Afghanistan and central Asia. With regards to the United Nations, there is continued discussion surrounding the reform of the UN Security Council. Central to this is improving the representation of UN membership; Germany's campaign for a permanent seat is supported by the UK, whilst other members, such as Italy and the Netherlands, have expressed caution.

The founding principle of NATO as a collective defence organisation is also undergoing re-definition as it expands to incorporate the risk of so-called 'home-grown' terrorism, threats from cyber attacks, and unprecedented numbers of natural disasters. The UK and Germany will play key roles in its future. They contribute the second and third greatest number of troops, respectively, to the International Security Force in Afghanistan, with plans in place to begin withdrawing troops this year. Germany's focus is on training as opposed to combat, in line with the German Federal Government's coalition agreement to a 'culture of restraint', which is traditional in German foreign and security policy, but is not always in line with that of the UK. M

In the area of climate change, the perceived failure of the Copenhagen Conference and the subsequent public outcry reflects not only the challenges associated with harnessing multi-lateral agreement on climate change, but also the importance with which this issue is viewed amongst civil societies and general publics. Germany and the UK are both under pressure from environmental groups within their political systems, and the general publics at large, to lead by example and hold themselves accountable to higher standards than other states outside of Europe.

The national, regional, and global challenges outlined above affect both the UK and Germany, if in



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different ways. As two of Europe's most populous, most economically powerful, and most globally visible states, they have key roles to play in meeting these challenges. The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy has therefore decided to launch "The British-German Conference 2011" to reflect on these challenges, the German and British approaches to them, and the importance of the two countries working together.

Speakers

The speakers at the British-German Conference 2011 will be key figures in politics and international relations, renowned academics, and leaders from civil society and the private sector. Speakers will be drawn from the UK and Germany, with selected figures from the international community also contributing.

Participants

Attendance at the conference is open to interested scholars and students, diplomatic and political representatives, journalists, civil society practitioners, and other stakeholders with an active interest in Germany, the UK, and the field of international relations.

Legacy

The British-German Conference 2011 is the inaugural conference organized by the ICD program "The UK Meets Germany". Attendees will receive a certificate of attendance confirming their involvement signed by two members of the ICD Advisory Board. Upon completion of the conference, participants will automatically become ICD Alumni members and will be invited to join the ICD Online Network, connecting them with likeminded individuals across the world.

Program Aims

The British-German Conference 2011 will pursue five overlapping aims:

- To reflect on the changing global context within which the UK and Germany must define their priorities and policies (Themes: Globalisation, the global financial crisis, the digital revolution, interdependence).
- To provide a platform for British and German representatives to discuss global challenges (Themes: Afghanistan and central Asia, terrorism, religious tolerance).
- To explore, compare, and contrast British and German policies towards regional and global issues (The EU, climate change, NATO, Afghanistan and Central Asia)
- To analyse and assess the current strength of the British-German relationship in political, cultural, and economic terms (Themes: Bi-lateral trade, political relations, academic & cultural exchange,



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language learning, public opinion & the media).

- To consider the future influence of the UK and Germany in international relations and the global economy (Themes: The United Nations, emerging economic powers, the future of the EU).

The issues outlined above will be addressed from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, and from a diverse range of political, academic, and professional standpoints. Following each lecture and panel discussion there will be an opportunity to the audience to address questions to the speakers.

Program Agenda

Program Aims - The British-German Conference 2011 will pursue five overlapping aims:

- To reflect on the changing global context within which the UK and Germany must define their priorities and policies
- (Themes: Globalization, the global financial crisis, the digital revolution, interdependence)
- To provide a platform for British and German representatives to discuss global challenges
- (Themes: Northern Africa and the Middle East, Afghanistan and central Asia, terrorism, religious tolerance)
- To explore, compare, and contrast British and German policies towards regional and global issues (Themes: The EU, climate change and natural disasters, NATO, Afghanistan and Central Asia)
- To analyse and assess the current strength of political, economic and cultural aspects within the British-German relationship
- (Themes: Bi-lateral trade, political relations, academic & cultural exchange, language learning, public opinion & the media)
- To consider the future influence of the UK and Germany in international relations and the global economy (Themes: The United Nations, emerging economic powers, the EU)

The Conference will focus in particular on the following issues:

A Changing Context

- The erosion of the nation state and the emergence of new global political actors
- The digital revolution and its impact on the influence of citizens and civil society
- The emergence of new political and economic powers in Asia and Latin America



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- New global actors and old nation states - competing for influence or forging stronger policies? (German\British responses to emerging States, representation at the UNSC Germany, Brazil, and India)
- Human rights and democracy in Africa - is there a danger of Liberal Imperialism?

New Threats and Challenges: British and German Perspectives

- The challenges and opportunities of military intervention in Libya
- Abstention from the UNSC vote: is Germany marginalizing itself over the Middle East?
- The local and international consequences of global economic instability
- The threat of climate change and the struggle to establish international consensus
- Strengthening dialogue and understanding between Islam and the West
- Soft security policies: migration, multiculturalism & renewable energy

The British-German Relationship

- The development of British-German relations since 1945
- Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and the historical roots of British-German relations
- Political relations under Conservative-led coalition governments
- Tourism and international trade between the UK and Germany
- Cultural, academic, and scientific cooperation: Areas for expansion



Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD)

Ku'damm Karree (Third Floor - Hochhaus) • Kurfürstendamm 207-8, Berlin D-10719
Tel.: +49 (0) 30 2360 7680 • Fax: +49 (0) 30 2360 76811
ukmg@culturaldiplomacy.org • Website: www.culturaldiplomacy.org